¶ By the King.

A Proclamation touching Tobacco.

WHereas Our moſt deare Father, of bleſſed memorie, deceaſed, for many weighty and important Reaſons of State, and at the humble ſuit of His Commons in Parliament, did lately publiſh two ſeuerall Proclamations, the one dated the nine and twentieth day of September, now laſt paſt, and the other the ſecond of March following, for the vtter prohibiting of the importation, and vſe of all Tobacco, which is not of the proper growth of the Colonies of Virginia and the Sommer Iſlands, or one of them, with ſuch Cautions, and vnder ſuch Paines and Penalties, as are in thoſe Proclamations at large expreſſed:

Wee, tendring the proſperity of thoſe Colonies and Plantations, and holding it to bee a matter of great conſequence vnto Vs, and to the honour of Our Crowne, not to deſert, or neglect thoſe Colonies, whereof the foundations, with hopefull ſucceſſe, haue been ſo happily layd by Our Father, beeing giuen to vnderſtand, that diuers perſons intending onely their priuate gaine, and neglecting all conſiderations of the publique, in this ſhort time, whileſt Wee haue been neceſſarily taken vp in ordering of the great affaires of Our Kingdomes and State, haue taken the boldneſſe, ſecretly, and by ſtealth, to import and vtter great quantities of Tobacco, which is not of the growth of the Plantations aforeſaid, to the vtter deſtruction of thoſe Plantations, as much as in them lieth; Wee haue thought fit, for the preuenting of thoſe inconueniences, which may otherwiſe enſue, to the irrecouerable dammage of thoſe Plantations, and of Our ſeruice, to publiſh and declare Our Royall pleaſure for the preſent, touching the premiſſes, vntill vpon more mature deliberation Wee ſhall ſee cauſe to alter, or adde vnto the ſame, in any part.

And Wee doe therefore straitly charge and command, that no person whatsoeuer, of what degree or qualitie soeuer, doe at any time hereafter, either directly or indirectly, impoꝛt, buy, sell, or vtter, plant, cherish, or vse, or cause to bee impoꝛted, sold, or vttered, cherished, planted, or vsed, in Our Realmes of England, or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, or in any Isles or places thereunto belonging any Tobacco, of any soꝛt whatsoeuer, which is not of the proper growth of the said Colonies, or one of them; And that no person whatsoeuer, by any shift or deuice whatsoeuer, doe receiue, or conceale, or colour the Tobacco of any other, so impoꝛted, planted, bought, sold, vttered, or vsed within Our sayd Realmes, or Dominions, or the Isles or places aforesaid, or any part thereof, vpon paine of forfeiture vnto Vs, of all such Tobacco so to be impoꝛted, bought, sold, planted, vttered, or vsed, contrary to the true meaning of these presents, in whose hands soeuer the same shall be found, and vpon such further paines and penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of these Our Realms, or by the Censure of Our Courts of Star Chamber, in either of Our said Kingdomes respectiuely, can or may be inflicted vpon the offenders, for contempt of this Our Royall Command; and to be reputed and taken as enemies to Our proceedings, and to those Plantations, which so much concerne Our honour, and the honour and profit of Our State.

And Our further will and command is, that all the forreigne Tobacco, of what soꝛt soeuer, which is not of the proper growth of those Plantations or one of them, shall before the fourth day of May, now next ensuing, bee transpoꝛted out of Our Realmes and Dominions, as by the sayd former Proclamations it was directed and commanded, vpon paine of forfeiture thereof, and vpon the other paines and penalties aforesayd to be inflicted vpon the offenders.

And Our pleasure is, That all such forreigne Tobacco may bee freely expoꝛted by any person whatsoeuer, without paying to Vs, or to Our vse, any Subsidie, or other duetie for the same.

Giuen at Our Court at White-Hall, this ninth day of April, in the first yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

SOC. ANTIQV. LOND.

¶ Printed at London by Bonham Norton and Iohn Bill,
Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie.
M. D C. XXV.